

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00755 031737Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-06 ORM-01 IO-06 (ISO) W
-----040432Z 015505 /13

R 031712Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4211
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0755

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, HA
SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF HAITIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: (A) 76 PORT AU PRINCE 3659 (NOTAL), (B) PARIS 838 (NOTAL),
(C) 76 PORT AU PRINCE 3641 (NOTAL)

1. THE DEPORTATION TO FRANCE OF EIGHT HAITIANS DEEMED BY THE GOH AS TOO DANGEROUS TO THE SECURITY OF THE STATE TO REMAIN IN HAITI FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE IN AN AMNESTY DECEMBER 24, 1976, WAS A NEW DEPARTURE IN HAITIAN TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. IT ALSO AFFORDS US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DEBRIEF PRISONERS IN AN ENVIRONMENT LESS THREATENING TO THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES THAN HAITI.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN WHAT THEIR EXPERIENCE IN PRISON WERE SO WE CAN COMPARE THEM WITH THE EXPERIENCES OF THOSE PRISONERS ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN HAITI AFTER THEIR RELEASE. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH SEVERAL OF THE LATTER AND FIND THEIR TREATMENT VARIED ACCORDING TO THEIR PLACE OF DETENTION AND, APPARENTLY, THE NATURE OF THEIR OFFENSES. ACCOUNTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 00755 031737Z

FROM A NUMBER OF FORMER PRISONERS COULD BE USED TO COMPILE AN ANONYMOUS, COMPOSITE PICTURE OF CURRENT PRISON CONDITIONS THAT WOULD HELP OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. THE EIGHT HAITIANS DEPORTED TO FRANCE WERE LIONEL DERENONCOURT, MAX CHARLIER, GARY PHILIPPI, JEAN-GERARD PIERRE, SERGE CALVIN, FRANTZ LOFFICIAL, FRANK DURE PLACIDE,

AND ALIX PIERRE-LOUIS. DERENONCOURT IS NOW IN THE UNITED STATES AND, WITH COOPERATION OF CHURCH WORLD SERVICE, WAS RECENTLY INTERVIEWED BY HAITIAN DESK OFFICER. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT FRENCH AUTHORITIES OR UNCHR OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF WHEREABOUTS OF OTHER SEVEN. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT PIERRE-LOUIS HAD WIFE AND CHILDREN IN BELGIUM (76 PORT AU PRINCE 3012), AND, ACCORDING TO HAITIAN EXILE PRESS, PLACIDE HAS FAMILY IN CANADA. DERENONCOURT MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH CHARLIER AND PHILIPPI.

4. ACTION REQUESTEDC EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT (EXCEPT FOR DERENONCOURT) DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW THESE EXILES. ONCE THE MEN ARE LOCATED, WE WILL PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON EACH EXILE AND CHECK LIST OF POINTS TO COVER SUCH AS AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL CARE, CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT, NAMES OF PERSONS STILL JAILED, ETC. INTERVIEWING OFFICERS SHOULD BE FLUENT IN FRENCH.
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Message Attributes

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